



Neuroscience Newsletter

Neuroscience Welcomes 8 New Students

Joseph Abbah was born in Okoto -Ugboju in Otukpo local Government of Benue State, Nigeria, where he grew up and received most of his early education. He received his Bachelor of Pharmacy degree at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State in 1998. He completed Pharmacist internship training in 1998 at the Gwagwalada Special-

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Our new students are (from left to right)
Back row: Megan, Amy, Anton, Michael
Front row: Nicole, Norah, Aerielle, Joseph

Michael (Mick) Bentley is from Dillsburg, PA and holds the rank of Captain as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist in the United States Army Nurse Corps. Upon matriculation from Valley Forge Military College, Michael received his commission in the US Army Reserve and was platoon leader for the 103rd Engineer Battalion of the

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Aerielle Brown was born in St. Louis, MO, but grew up primarily in Naperville, IL (a suburb of Chicago). She obtained her BS in Aerospace Engineering and minors in Space Studies and Math at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. Immediately after graduating, she spent over five

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Anton Dmitriev was born and raised in Kazan, Russia. He came to the USA (Shrewsbury, PA) as an exchange student during his senior year in high school. He received his BS in Biology with a minor in Chemistry and a concentration in pre-medicine from Towson University in Towson, MD in 1999. Anton

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Nicole Flint grew up Noblesville, Indiana. She received her BS in neuroscience and minor in biology from Colgate University in Hamilton, NY in 2003. Her undergraduate thesis project on the neuroprotective effects of β -estradiol on oligodendrocyte cytotoxicity was supported by a fellowship from Aventis

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Norah Harwood is from Rockville, Maryland. She graduated last May from St. Mary's College of Maryland, a small (public) liberal arts school with a major in Biology and Psychology and a concentration in neuroscience. During her undergraduate career Norah worked for two summers at the VA Medical

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Megan Masterson was born in Berkeley, CA, but grew up in Yonkers, NY. She received her A.A. from Westchester Community College in Valhalla, NY, then transferred and earned a BA in Neuroscience and Behavior from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA in 2004. In 2004, she interned

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Amy Starosciak grew up in East Brunswick, NJ, but has resided in Maryland for the past four years while pursuing her BS in Biology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Now living in downtown Baltimore, she is within walking distance from the Inner Harbor, Raven's Stadium and Cam-

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(Joseph Abbah continued from page 1)

ist Hospital, Gwagwalada, Abuja and the mandatory National Youth Service Corp from 1999 to 2000 in Nigeria. In 2001, he joined the Laboratory of Prof. K.S. Gamaniel in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD), Idu, Abuja, as a Research Fellow. His research area was primarily neuropharmacology, with a focus on the behavioral and central effects and toxicological actions of medicinal plant extracts and isolated components in *in vivo* and *in vitro* models. Joseph has little experience in cutting edge research especially at the cellular and molecular level, a shortcoming he hopes to overcome at USU. His interest in Neuroscience is the plasticity underlying the cognitive functions of memory and learning. He is an ardent soccer fan (his favorite team is FC Barcelona of Spain) and enjoys reading, listening to music and the warm company of friends.

(Megan Masterson continued from page 1)

with Dr. Rochellys Diaz-Heijtz, a visiting professor at NYU from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden and examined the potential role of G α -sub proteins in ADHD. Megan lives with her mother, grandparents and 12 year old brother, Liam Connor, whom she is very close with, and is engaged to be married to her boyfriend of six years, who is currently attending SUNY, Albany. She is an avid reader, but also enjoys trail riding, scuba diving, skiing, hiking, and is learning Greek to converse with her future in-laws.

(Aerielle Brown continued from page 1)

years at the Naval Air Warfare Center, China Lake, CA as a civilian Weapon Systems Integration Engineer for the US Navy. She worked on various weapon systems on the F/A-18 Hornet and Super Hornet fighter aircraft in both lab and ground/flight settings and hopes that her work in developmental testing and analysis will help with her research in the biological field. Aerielle's interests in Neuroscience stem from her undergraduate studies of space flight physiology and the changes that the body, especially the nervous system, encounters in microgravity. While at USU, she hopes to pursue interests in epilepsy (potentially the effects of ion channels on epileptogenesis), autism, pain management, and the physiological aspects of psychological disorders such as depression and schizophrenia. As her biological experience in the lab is limited, she is looking forward to learning new lab techniques. Aerielle has a passion for hiking and adores animals, especially her beagle. Her other interests include yoga, exercising, and wine tasting.

(Norah Harwood continued from page 1)

Center / University of Maryland, Baltimore with Dr. David Trisler and Dr. Tapas Makar. Their research involves developing CD34 positive bone marrow stem cells as vehicles for delivering interferon-beta (IFN- β) to the central nervous system as a possible treatment for Multiple Sclerosis. At USU, Norah looks forward to learning more about the endogenous factors contributing to neurodegeneration. Norah enjoys tennis and other outdoor / sports activities.

(*Nicole Flint* continued from page 1)

Pharmaceuticals. Upon graduation, Nicole received a post-baccalaureate research training award from NIH to examine the role of myelin-associated glycoprotein in cell signaling. Most recently, she worked as a technician in Dr. Armstrong's lab in the Dept of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics at USU investigating the effects of FGF receptor knockdown on oligodendrocyte proliferation, differentiation and survival. Although Nicole's neuroscience interests appear to be limited to glial cells, her interests also include neural development. She enjoys outdoor activity, theatre, Cubs baseball, and college basketball (a requirement for an Indiana native).

(*Michael Bentley* continued from page 1)

Pennsylvania National Guard. While in the Reserves, he received his BS in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania in 1996. He then worked as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at The New York Hospital in Manhattan, NY until returning to active duty in 2000. Michael received his Master's Degree from the US Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing in 2002. His thesis was titled "Effects of Preincisional Ketamine Treatment on Natural Killer Cell Activity and Postoperative Pain Management after Oral Maxillofacial Surgery". Michael is a veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. Other assignments include Forts Jackson, Bragg, Sam Houston, Bliss, and Carson. Michael is new to the laboratory but is excited about the opportunities at USU. His interest in Neuroscience involves androgen influence on synaptic plasticity. His hobbies include computers, surfing the internet, and watching Notre Dame Football. Michael arrives at USU with his wife Elana and their two children,

(*Amy Starosciak* continued from page 1)

den Yards. Amy's main interest in Neuroscience is consciousness and its neurobiological underpinnings. Her previous research experience includes studying the escape response of the African butterfly fish (*Pantodon buchholzi*) and the feeding behavior of the tobacco hornworm (*Manduca sexta*). Her work with the fish will soon be published in J Comp Physiol. After spending time with fish and caterpillars, Amy is ready to make the step up to mammals, and eventually study human cognition and behavior.

(*Anton Dmitriev* continued from page 1)

then worked as a Research Technician followed by Research Associate at the Orthopaedic Biomechanics Laboratory at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. He investigated changes in biomechanical properties of the spinal column secondary to surgical intervention requiring the use of internal instrumentation. Attending night classes while at UMH, he earned his Master's Degree in Biomedical Engineering from John's Hopkins University in 2003. In 2004, Anton was invited to establish an Orthopaedic Spine Research Laboratory at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which investigates spinal pathology associated with biomechanical changes secondary to traumatic and degenerative conditions common in active duty military personnel. Anton has co-authored sixteen peer-reviewed publications, two invited papers and a book chapter. His current interests include spinal cord and neural tissue pathology resulting from traumatic injuries and degenerative conditions.

Your Graduate Student Representative

is currently **Tom McFate**. Each USUHS graduate program has a Student Program Representative whose role is to serve as liaison between administration/faculty and graduate students through the dissemination of pertinent information. This position also allows students to raise concerns and issues that can then be addressed through more formal channels. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Tom .

Neuroscience Seminars - Fall Schedule

All seminars begin at 3:30pm in Lecture Room A
Please contact the host for further details on individual speakers

September 14, 2005	Leonardo Belluscio, PhD	(host: Bausch)
	"Developmental Plasticity in the Mammalian Olfactory Bulb"	
September 28, 2005	Mollie Meffert, MD, PhD	(host: Marini)
	"Synaptic Signaling by NF-kB"	
October 12, 2005	Heather Cameron, PhD	(host: Agoston)
	To be announced	
October 26, 2005	Akiva S. Cohen, Ph.D.	(host: Schell)
	"Injury-induced alterations in brain function"	
November 9, 2005	Society for Neuroscience meeting	
November 30, 2005	Neuroscience Open House	
December 14, 2005	Student presentations	

15th Annual Neuroscience Open House

Wednesday, November 30, 2005, 3:30pm

Congratulations

Xiaolong Jiang has been awarded the Henry M. Jackson Foundation Fellowship in Medical Sciences for 2005-2006

2005/06 Monthly Lunch Group for Graduate Students and Student-run Neuroscience Journal Club

The goals of the monthly lunch group for USUHS Neuroscience graduate students (NSL) are to discuss issues important to graduate students and to facilitate peer support. The Neuroscience Journal Club (JC) aims to keep students abreast of current literature, offers an opportunity to discuss Neuroscience topics and provides an informal setting to practice presenting research. The combination NSL/JC Meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. These are informal, student run meetings designed to help graduate students get through their graduate careers. If you have suggestions for a meeting or journal club topic, please contact Jeremy Henriques (jhenriques@usuhs.mil) or Tara Romanczyk (tromanczyk@usuhs.mil). Topics can be subject to change.

September—Orientation to Grad School: Choosing a Lab, Mentor & Rotations
 October—Attending Conferences & Presenting a Poster
 November - Finances
 December—Holiday Luncheon
 January—Applying for Grants & Fellowships
 February—Thesis Writing
 March—Writing a Scientific Paper
 April—Qualifying Exam

2005 / 2006 Neuroscience Program Executive Committee

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